

Appl. No. 10/602,336
Amtd. dated August 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 25, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on May 25, 2004.

Prior to this Amendment, claims 7-10 were pending and claims 1-6 and 11-14 were canceled. In this Amendment, claims 7-10 are canceled, and claims 15-24 are added.

In the Office Action, at page 2, the Examiner indicates that the specification fails to provide antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Applicants traverse, but have submitted new claims to expedite the prosecution. Applicants submit that the claims are fully supported by the specification.

At page 3 of the Office Action, claims 8-10 are rejected as indefinite. Applicants submit that the previously submitted claims were not indefinite. However, to expedite the prosecution, claims 8-10 are canceled so this rejection should be moot.

At pages 4-5 of the Office Action, claims 7-10 are rejected over various combinations of Chiu (U.S. Patent No. 5,192,681), Fukaya (U.S. Pant No. 5,969,411), and Phipps (U.S. Patent No. 5,381,105).

These rejections are traversed. However, to expedite the prosecution, claims 7-10 are canceled and new claims 15-24 are submitted. Claims 15-22 contain language similar to the language in article claims 1-8 in U.S. Patent No. 6,646,329, which corresponds to the parent U.S. patent application to the present application. Since claims 15-22 are of similar scope to the claims in U.S. Patent No. 6,464,329, Applicants submit that claims 15-22 are patentable. Dependent claims 23-24 depend from independent claims 15 and 20, so they should also be patentable.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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